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To: Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP ~~705~~ 704
395 E Street, S.W..
Washington D.C., 20423-0001

From: Peter A. Weiss
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Chrysler Group LLC
800 Chrysler Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Subject: Ex Parte ~~705~~ ⁷⁰⁴ Review of Commodity, Boxcar, and TOFC-COFC Exemptions

Chrysler is a substantial rail user for finished vehicle deliveries with approximately 75 percent of our vehicles transported by rail.

Chrysler supports the proposed hearings concerning exemptions for various commodities, including automotive traffic. The competitive landscape in the rail industry was significantly different at the time the exemption was granted in 1993 than it is today, as the number of railroads has continued to decline due to mergers and consolidations. Further the requirements for tariff filings have changed and do not present a bureaucratic hurdle anymore.

Given the significant transformation in the rail industry since the establishment of these exemptions and the limited opportunity for competition in long distance haul away trucking, we believe it is reasonable and prudent to hold formal hearings to reconsider the appropriateness of these exemptions. It is of interest for the US economy to ensure a competitive Transportation environment, and thus we support the proposed hearings.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Weiss